



**A HEALING CENTER FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Ele's Place Expands School Partnerships**

Ele's Place, a healing center for grieving children, is partnering with six new schools during the 2012-2013 school year. **Bath Middle School, DeWitt Junior High, Haslett Middle School, Holt Junior High, Potterville Middle School, and Leslie Middle School** are now working with Ele's Place to offer its school-based grief support program services. Eight-week support group sessions called "*Ele's Group*" will be held in the schools throughout the year for students who are grieving the death of a family member or close friend. The program is underwritten in part by **Comerica Bank**.

"Ele's Place is serving more than 200 children each week right now at its Lansing location," said **Ele's Place President & CEO, Laurie Baumer**. "But we know there are hundreds more grieving children in our community who will never get the chance to come to Ele's Place. We need to go to them. Word of our success with the Lansing area schools has prompted many other schools to ask us for the program – more than we can afford to help at this point – but we're grateful to **Comerica Bank** for its financial support that is helping us to add the six schools this year."

In "*Ele's Group*," students use creative activities to help them express their feelings and share memories of the person who died. Most importantly, they have the opportunity to be with others their age who are grieving, and share their sadness, anger, fear and other feelings in an understanding, confidential environment. Feeling less isolated helps them to cope and begin to heal. This program is designed to normalize their grief experience, reduce isolation, create peer support, and improve their ability to verbalize their feelings. Along with the new additions, *Ele's Group* will continue at Eastern HS 7-8 Academy, Gardner Academy, Pleasant View Magnet School, Sexton HS 7-8, and the Lansing S.T.E.M Academy as well as Grand Ledge - Hayes Middle School, Holt - Hope School, Waverly East Intermediate and Waverly Middle School.

Founded in 1991, Ele's Place provides grief support to children and families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Each week, approximately 350 grieving children plus their family members join peer support groups in both Lansing and Ann Arbor locations. A third location will soon be added in Grand Rapids. In addition, Ele's Place serves as a resource and referral agency for people who come in contact with grieving families. All services are provided free of charge. For more information, call 517-482-1315, or visit [www.elesplace.org](http://www.elesplace.org).

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